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GROMYKO MORE CONCILIATORY

First Sign Of Movement After Days Of Big Four Deadlock

Brighter Hope Of Bridging Gap Between East And West

COMMENT

Events in Czechoslovakia, the vicious purge which has gathered top leaders into its net, affords something more instructive than another glimpse of the now familiar spectacle of Communism devouring its progeny.

Czechoslovakia, probably the most valuable province of the Soviet empire, significantly unites the two prime causes of the "deviation" which is a standing threat to Kremlin imperialism. They are resistance to economic enslavement and a patriotic revulsion against national subservience. The Czechs were among the most independent of European peoples before Munich and it clearly takes more than a decade to stamp out the spirit.

Impression from other countries, East Germany, Poland and the rest, who are similarly afflicted, is that what it means to be a tool of the Kremlin is a realisation spreading like fire through Communist parties everywhere. In democratic countries this can find free expression, as now in Italy with the sudden upsurge of Titoism. In countries still under the heel, the revolt is individual, witness the arrest of the Czech Foreign Minister.

Some Czechs may swallow the suggestion by President Gottwald that three of his closest colleagues had been working secretly for the Western "espionage system." But the very patriotism to which this denunciation tries to appeal must grovel if it is to applaud Gottwald's conclusion that "we must treasure, as the apple of our eye, the alliance with the great Soviet Union."

Signs of inner resistance are growing. It is the revolt not of want, but of national dignity which may in the end disrupt the Soviet dependency system. The rise of neo-Fascism and the intransigence of Marshal Tito, show that totalitarianism—black or red—can only succeed by exploiting nationalism. When it humiliates national pride it sows the dragon's teeth of its own defeat.

Paris, Mar. 14.
Soviet Russia today made concessions on the agenda of the Big Four Foreign Ministers' meeting, including the elimination of the earlier phrase referring directly to the rearmament of Germany.

EASIER DIVORCES POSSIBLE

London, Mar. 14.
Britain's divorce laws are to be reviewed by a Royal (independent) Commission for the first time for 40 years.

The announcement that a Commission is to be appointed was made by the Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, in the House of Commons today. It follows a promise by the Attorney General, Sir Hartley Shawcross, during a debate last Friday when the House of Commons discussed a private Bill seeking to remedy a section of the divorce laws.

The Attorney General then said that it would be better for the whole divorce laws to be reviewed by a Royal Commission.

Britain had 50,000 divorces in 1949 and 30,000 last year.

Mr Attlee said that the Commission would be appointed as soon as possible, but he could not promise how soon it would report.—Reuter.

Back To Work

Barcelona, Mar. 14.
Ninety-five percent of Barcelona's workers returned to work today after trade union leaders had dashed round the city as "flying squads" urging them to go back.

The total arrests in the city's disturbances are given as 500.—Reuter.

Labour Rattled By War Of Attrition

London, Mar. 14.
The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, summoned Labour Members of Parliament to a special meeting tonight to discuss ways of defeating the Conservative opposition's "wear them down" campaign.

A Conservative Member of Parliament, Mr Robert Boothby, describing this House of Commons campaign on Tuesday night said, "We will make them sit up day and night and grind away until they get absolutely hysterical."

Among the Cabinet Ministers present at the meeting today were the new Foreign Secretary, Mr Herbert Morrison, and Mr Chuter Ede, Home Secretary, who has now taken over Mr Morrison's former functions as

In a conciliatory mood, the Soviet delegate, Andrei Gromyko, also agreed to accept the West's wording of the agenda item referring to the German peace treaty.

The deputies adjourned early to give the West a chance to study carefully the new Soviet drafts.

If the Soviet proposals were not completely acceptable, they seemed to have started a move towards bridging the gap between East and West.—United Press.

MAIN DEMAND

Paris, Mar. 14.
Russia made what was considered a minor concession at today's "Big Four" deputies' meeting here, but she stood firm on her main demand—that demilitarisation of Germany should be the chief item on an agenda for a Foreign Ministers' conference on East-West tension.

Mr Andrei Gromyko (Russia) accepted the proposed Western version of the second item on their agenda reading, "Re-establishment of German unity and the conclusion of a peace treaty with Germany."

But he then put forward re-drafts of the first and third items on his agenda, dealing respectively with German demilitarisation, the causes of tension and the reduction of the Big Powers' armed forces.

The Western deputies said that these needed studying. The deputies were meeting for the ninth time to try to find an agreed agenda for a conference of their chiefs.

Following Mr Gromyko's tabling of the re-drafts, Dr Philip Jessup (United States) said that he needed time to study the new wording.

Mr Ernest Davies (Britain) said that the new Russian proposal deserved careful and serious study. At a first glance,

he said, he was doubtful whether all the new Soviet wording satisfied the criterion of an objective agenda.

The re-drafted first item on the Soviet agenda reads:

"Regarding fulfilment by the Four Powers of the Potsdam Agreement on the demilitarisation of Germany."

The revised, third item reads, "Examination of the causes of present international tensions in Europe and of the means to secure a real and lasting improvement in relations between the Soviet Union, the United States, Britain and France including the question of a reduction of the armed forces of the four Powers."

Commenting on Mr Gromyko's proposals, Dr Jessup said that Mr Gromyko had still not accepted the following:

- (1) Measures to eliminate the fear of aggression.
- (2) Fulfilment of present treaty obligations; and
- (3) Examination of the existing level of armaments.—Reuter.

Shinwell And Churchill

In Collision

London, Mar. 14.

Mr Winston Churchill asserted today that a speech by Admiral Lord Fraser, First Sea Lord, at Gibraltar about the appointment of an American admiral as the Atlantic Pact Supreme Commander, was a breach of the naval regulations. He said that it was very desirable to keep high naval and military professional authorities, actively serving, out of matters of controversy in Parliament.

But Lord Fraser was defended by the Defence Minister, Mr Emanuel Shinwell, who maintained that the regulations had not been broken.

(Lord Fraser told men of the Home and Mediterranean Fleet at Gibraltar on March 6 that he was personally satisfied that the appointment of an American Supreme Commander in the Atlantic was the best policy for Britain.)

Mr Shinwell said that he doubted if Mr Churchill would have raised the matter if Lord Fraser had said the opposite.

Mr Churchill, amid cheers from his supporters, called this "a very insulting charge."—Reuter.

F.A. CUP FINALISTS

BLACKPOOL

AND

NEWCASTLE

London, Mar. 14.

Newcastle and Blackpool will contest the final of the Football Association Cup at Wembley on April 28. They won their semi-final replays today following the goalless draws of last Saturday, Newcastle United beating Wolverhampton Wanderers at Huddersfield by two goals to one and Blackpool beating Birmingham at Everton also by two goals to one.

Newcastle fought back from an arrears after Walker had given the Wolves the lead in the 16th minute of the game, but Blackpool led after four minutes when Mortensen, who was injured in last Saturday's game, scored.

A move started by Mullen and which went half the length of the field produced the Wolverhampton goal but within the space of a minute after 32 minutes' play, Milburn and Mitchell netted for Newcastle.

The equaliser against the run of the play was due to a defensive error.

Wolverhampton came out full of fight in the second half but Newcastle were now looking the better side and a goalless half left them worthy winners. Both goals had escaped and Newcastle once more netted again, only to be ruled offside.

The other game started late because of delay to the Blackpool team en route. Then it was soon apparent that the slippery ground was going to be a handicap.

Perry, the South African, did fall when having a possible chance of scoring, but Mortensen made no doubt about his shot after four minutes.

Stanley Matthews was at his best. Though superior, Blackpool could not score again before the half-time interval. They repelled three corners early in the second half and then at last the second goal came. Perry, running 40 yards unhampered before cutting in to drive home a ground shot. A minute later Smith scored following a corner.

That was the extent of the scoring and so Blackpool reached the final, which they have never won, although they were runners-up three seasons ago.

Newcastle, several times winner, reached the final for the eighth time and the first since 1932.

The following were the results of matches played today:

F.A. CUP

Semi-Final Replays
Newcastle U. 2 Wolves 1
Birmingham 1 Blackpool 1

SECOND DIVISION

Manchester 1 Swansea 2

SCOTTISH CUP Fourth Round Replay

Motherwell 2 Ayr. Utd. 1
(after extra time)

THIRD DIVISION Southern

Bournemouth 2 Bristol R. 0
(Motherwell now meet Hibernian at Tynecastle Park, Edinburgh, in the semi-final on March 31).—Reuter.



This fashionable French poodle, Degas, is modelling a voluminous red, white and blue ribbon bow to set the pace in canine style. And, being so dressed up, what could be more natural than to sit before a mirror and study the effect?

VIETMINH LEADERS EXECUTED

Saigon, Mar. 14. General Jean de Lattre de Tassigny leaves today for Paris to ask for more troops to defend Indo-China against Communism—possibly 15,000 to 20,000 more.

Authoritative sources said the French commander considered the reinforcements "absolutely necessary" but was making his estimates "as low as possible". Informed sources said the general would warn the government that a new Vietminh drive "of doubled intensity must be expected soon—any day".

General Huynh, rebel commander in Western Cochinchina, was reported by reliable sources to have been executed after being convicted of treason by a Communist court. The 35-year-old Dan Van Tot, leader of the so-called "New Democracy" Party, also was executed.

It is believed the two men were executed by the same firing squad several days ago. Specific charges against them were not disclosed.—United Press.

No Decision Made On 38th Parallel Crossing

Washington, Mar. 14.

No decision has been made on future United Nations military and political action in Korea.

There was no current disposition evident in official quarters now to send a group of troops across the 38th Parallel in force, because such a step would require thorough consultations between the United States and her Allies.

The State Department spokesman, Mr. Michael McDermott, was asked about a published report that the United States was considering taking the position that the United Nations military action should end near the Parallel and the unification of Korea might be delayed. He said, "There is no comment for the reason that no decision has been made. That report might be a speculation."

American officials, however, have shown no interest in seek-

ing new United Nations authorization for General Douglas MacArthur's forces to go beyond the 38th Parallel. The official interest in fighting deeply in North Korea waned noticeably following China's intervention in November.

The primary official hope here has been that staggering battlefield losses by the Communists might force China to accept a ceasefire arrangement. The Chinese leaders rejected the United Nations peace offers when Red troops were winning in Korea.

No one in official quarters will say flatly that the United Nations forces will not go beyond the 38th Parallel. Such action might be necessary if Red troops fall back into North Korea and refuse to negotiate.—United Press.

Tax On Pools Proposed

Copenhagen, Mar. 14.

An emergency bill tabled by the Danish Government in the Lower House here today proposes a tax on football pools, among other measures, to restrict consumer expenditure.

The bill is designed to meet Denmark's grave economic position, brought about by rising import prices. It was estimated that Denmark has now to export 50 percent more goods than in September, 1949—the time of devaluation—to import the same amount as at that time.—Reuter.

SEN. McCARTHY REVIVES ATTACK ON MR. ACHESON

Washington, Mar. 14.

The "famous" Senator Joseph McCarthy (Republican) said today that the State Department, through either "treachery or incompetence," was handing over the Far East and Europe to Russia.

Opening a new attack on the State Department's policies, Senator McCarthy also made these observations in a speech prepared for delivery in the Senate:

1. General Dwight Eisenhower—"If Ike isn't careful, he's going to be taken for an awful ride... by the same crowd that has tied the hands of MacArthur in the East. He cannot cope with unprincipled, crooked, clever diplomats."

2. Guided missiles—Russia is working on a "guided missile of the air" for tracking down and destroying aircraft in flight. It is only a "matter of time" before this missile is perfected, thus wiping out any threat of atomic bomb attack by long-range U.S. bombers.

3. Formosa—President Truman's order for neutralisation of Formosa by United States naval forces has prevented the Chinese Nationalists from attacking the Chinese Reds in Korea and China. The order "bears the fingerprints—very bloody fingerprints, if you please—of Communist treason."

sent "phony planning" for Europe by those "who know not what they say... or are traitors planning a phony defence." He said that under present administration plans, "we are preparing to allow Western Europe to fall without having it appear that we pushed her."

He said any United States troops committed to such a plan "would be condemned to death or permanent slavery."

Senator McCarthy disputed those who contend building up Western Europe's defences would provoke Russia into launching an attack. He said: "As of today, our long-range bombers using the atomic bomb could wipe Russian industry off the face of the earth. I do not believe Russia will move while that condition continues."—United Press.

HIS PANACEA

Senator McCarthy demanded several revisions in the United States' foreign policy before any U.S. troops are sent to Europe. He said such changes were necessary "if America is to live". He proposed arming Spain, Western Germany, Japan and Nationalist China, aiding anti-Communists behind the Iron Curtain, allowing the troops of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to fight in Korea and planning "real" defence of Western Europe.

He made it clear he believed the security of the United Nations depended upon America preventing the Russians from accomplishing what he called the Soviet Union's next two objectives—conquest of Japan and Western Europe. He added:

"I know there are those who say we can survive as an island in a Communist sea, even if Russia attains those next two aims. With this I heartily disagree."

NO REAL DEFENCE

He said there could be no real defence for Europe without using the Spaniards and Western Germans. He denounced what he said was the pre-

KASHMIR WRANGLE POSTPONED

Lake Success, Mar. 14.

The Security Council meeting on the Kashmir question, scheduled for tomorrow, has been postponed until March 21.

No reasons for the postponement were given by United Nations officials, but it is understood that consultations are still going on between Britain and the United States, as the sponsors of the pending resolution, and the other members of the Council.

The decision to postpone the meeting was understood to have been reached last night after informal consultations between the Council members. The main reason for the postponement was said to be that the reactions of the Indian and Pakistan spokesmen to the Anglo-American resolution were still being studied by the Council members, and particularly by the sponsors of the resolution.

A spokesman for the Netherlands delegation, whose representative, Mr. J. D. Von Balluseck, is the Acting President of the Council for the present month, confirmed this morning that a decision had been taken to postpone the meeting.

He said that pending an official announcement the probability was that the next meeting would be held on March 21.—Reuter.

Princess Flyingboats For RAF

London, Mar. 14.

Three giant Princess flyingboats which Britain is building at a cost of £9,000,000 are to be used by the Royal Air Force as transports, the Air Minister, Mr. Arthur Henderson, said today.

Fitted with 10 gas turbine engines, the flyingboats are expected to cruise at about 350 miles an hour and to have a range of about 4,000 miles.

They were designed to carry 100 passengers from Southampton to New York, but the British Overseas Airways Corporation decided only to use land planes.

Mr. Henderson said that the flyingboats would be a most valuable addition to transport resources in time of war. The first of the Princesses would be completed towards the end of the year, he added.—Reuter.

VATICAN AND BERAN CASE

Vatican City, Mar. 14.

The Vatican newspaper, Osservatore Romano, declared today that the Czechoslovak Communist Government's expulsion of Archbishop Josef Beran from Prague represented a "new and most grave violation of the rights and liberty of the Church."

It reported "grave canonical sanctions" against other priests for "betraying their Ministry."

(The Czech Government last week announced that Archbishop Beran had been ordered to quit the capital. For two years previously he had been held a virtual prisoner in his Prague palace).—Reuter.

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SHARP CHARGES BY MR DULLES

Soviet Design To "Immerse Asia In Bloodbath" Alleged

Speech To Explain Soviet Refusal To Talk Peace

Philadelphia, Mar. 14.

John Foster Dulles charged tonight that the Soviet Union's refusal to resume discussions on the Japanese peace treaty was part of a broad design of "violent revolution to immerse Asia in a bloodbath."

Zone Policemen Shot Dead

Heidelberg, Mar. 14.
Two Soviet Zone policemen "at least" have been killed in recent shooting incidents between American soldiers and Soviet Zone German police, the United States Army Headquarters here declared today.

In the East German Parliament this morning it was alleged that three policemen had been shot dead. The American statement covered several incidents that have occurred in recent weeks. It stated that the shootings, which occurred on the border between the United States-controlled area of Germany and the Soviet Zone, were provoked by Soviet Zone German policemen trespassing into the American Zone. — Reuter.

The special presidential representative, in a speech at the Philadelphia Bulletin forum, said: "When peace is distant, military despots speak lovingly of peace. But when peace presses close, then the despots would murder peace."

He reiterated the intention of the United States and its allies to "persist in efforts to achieve an overall peace for Japan, despite all Soviet efforts at obstruction."

Reviewing the record of Communist pressure throughout Asia, Mr Dulles said: "It is all part of a single pattern—the pattern of violence, planned and plotted for 25 years and finally brought to consummation, of fighting and disorder in the whole vast area extending from Korea down through China into Indo-China, Malaya, the Philippines, and west into Tibet and to the borders of Burma, India and Pakistan."

"Russia's now announced unwillingness to resume discussion of the Japanese peace treaty is no doubt designed to spread anxiety into an area protected against direct aggression by the presence of

forces representing the free world. It is part and parcel of the Soviets consistent anti-peace policy in Asia."

EVOLUTION

"On the part of the free world the policies are those of peaceful evolution," and cited the fact that "political independence has been won, and won peacefully, by India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, Indo-China, Indonesia and the Philippines."

Referring to Russia's "announced unwillingness" to resume treaty talks, Mr Dulles was speaking of Mr Jacob Malik's statement that "I do not conduct any discussions with Mr Dulles on the Japanese peace treaty," after they already had had several meetings on the subject.

Mr Dulles said that for two reasons "Russia should be first to go along with Japanese peace." Firstly, the Soviet Union "already has all the Japanese loot and territory it could possibly expect," secondly, "it is not an occupying nation in Japan as it is in Germany and Austria, so that in the case of Japan peace would not require it to surrender any position of power."

Fitting Russian refusal to talk treaty terms into the general design of Communist aims in the Far East, Mr Dulles said: "The Soviet anti-peace strategy for Asia was laid down over 25 years ago. Stalin then said that the road to victory over the West lay through revolution in the East."

Mr Dulles quoted Stalin as having said that to think that such revolution can be carried out peacefully, "means that one has either gone out of one's mind and lost normal human understanding, or has grossly and openly repudiated the proletarian revolution."

Declaring that the anti-Communist forces in the Philippines, Malaya and Indo-China "grow stronger every day," Mr Dulles said: "If we never relax pressure for peace, some day, somewhere, there will be a break in favour of peace." — United Press.

It was issued by the Korean People's Army and the "Chinese People's Volunteer" force.

The lieutenant said, "It was March 8 and we had reached a point six miles north of Chunchon with the wounded Chinese.

"We were lagging behind because my leg was stiff. The Chinese disappeared over a hill, so we knocked on a Korean door and stayed there the night. We checked on the safe conduct passes, saw that there was nothing saying which way we were heading, so decided to use them to escape. We were challenged by North Korean security police often.

"We just showed them the passes, asked the way to our lines and headed off." — Reuter.

Wounded American Officers In Comic Opera Escape

American Ninth Corps, Korea, Mar. 13. (Delayed).

Two wounded American officers captured by the Chinese Communists a month ago reached the United States' base hospital today after a comic opera escape.

The Chinese Communists gave the wounded personnel safe conduct passes. As the passes did not say in which direction they were to travel, the Americans headed south instead of north and were billeted and fed by the Chinese Communist army on their long escape trek.

The officers escaped north of Chunchon—the arsenal of the Chinese central front—and reported that the Chinese were in an orderly mass retreat from the central front.

They estimated that they saw between 20,000 and 25,000 Chinese soldiers pulling back to Chunchon.

The officers, one a liaison captain wounded in the left shoulder, and the other an artillery lieutenant shot through the right leg, were taken when the Chinese overran ROK positions about 10 miles north-east of Hoengsong on February 12.

The captain told this escape story at the hospital today.

"When they overran the ROKs we Americans fought in a perimeter and held out for a night, driving off two attacks in which I and two other officers were wounded. Next morning, 100 Chinese surrounded us so, as there were only 11 of us left, we surrendered.

"We lay down our arms and put our hands up, but the Chinese smiled at us, pushed our hands down to our sides, gave us cigarettes and rice.

"Throughout, they treated us magnificently, giving us every comfort they had available and giving us the best medical attention they had. They seemed to be very short of bandages and some drugs, but had some sulfa powder for my shoulder at a base hospital."

The lieutenant was shot through the leg when he was ambushed in his truck in another action near where the captain was wounded. He met the captain a few days later at a Chinese hospital.

The Americans were told to join a group of 11 Chinese wounded soldiers moving north. There were no guards and they were given transport by ox-carts and trucks when it was available but mostly they walked.

They were given safe conduct passes printed in English, Korean and Chinese.

The passes read: "The bearer, regardless of his military rank or nation, is hereby guaranteed freedom from personal injury, maltreatment or abuse. He will receive medical treatment if necessary and may retain all personal possessions."



TAPESTRY BY NATURE—A group of skiers moves slowly past the majestic Hochstetter Ice-fall, one of the wonders of the Mount Cook region of the Southern Alps in New Zealand. The great fall, a mile wide and 4,000 feet high, is a contorted mass of grinding ice and deep crevasses as it tumbles down onto the Tasman Glacier.

South African Defence Bill

Capetown, Mar. 14.

South Africa will spend £8,598,700 more on defence in the financial year of 1951-52 than in the current year, the Defence Minister, Dr N.C. Havenga, stated today.

Presenting the Estimates for the next year in the Assembly, he said that out of the additional expenditure on defence £1,000,000 was for the Korean war.

The total provided for defence was £18,874,000.

The Minister added that an additional amount would also be spent on agriculture.

The amount of expenditure estimated for the next year would be £18,147,000—£5,611,000 more than last year.—Reuter.

No Defence Talks

London, Mar. 14.

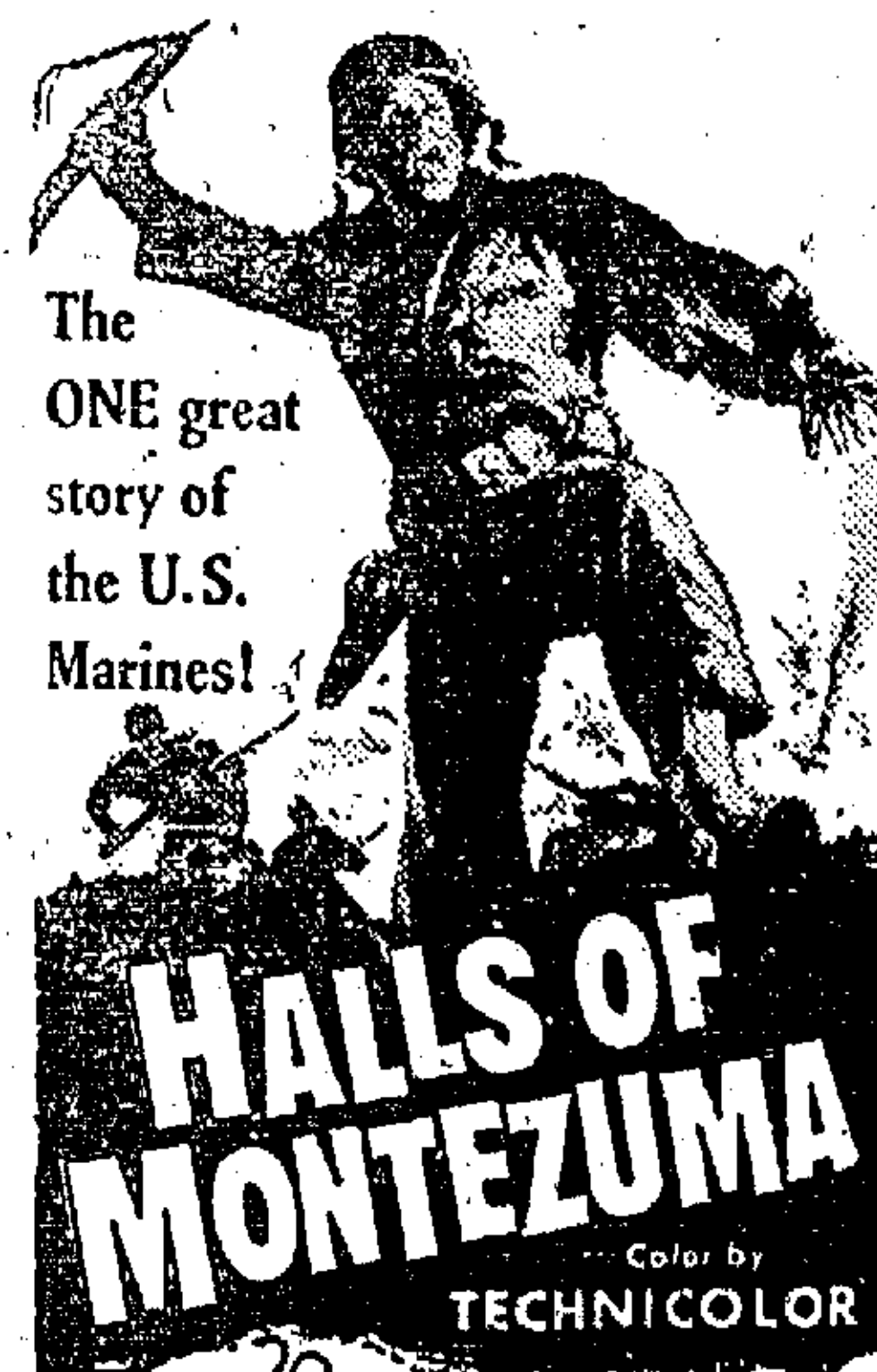
The Defence Minister, Mr Emanuel Shinwell, replied briefly in the negative when asked in the House of Commons today whether it had yet been decided to call a Commonwealth defence conference.—Reuter.

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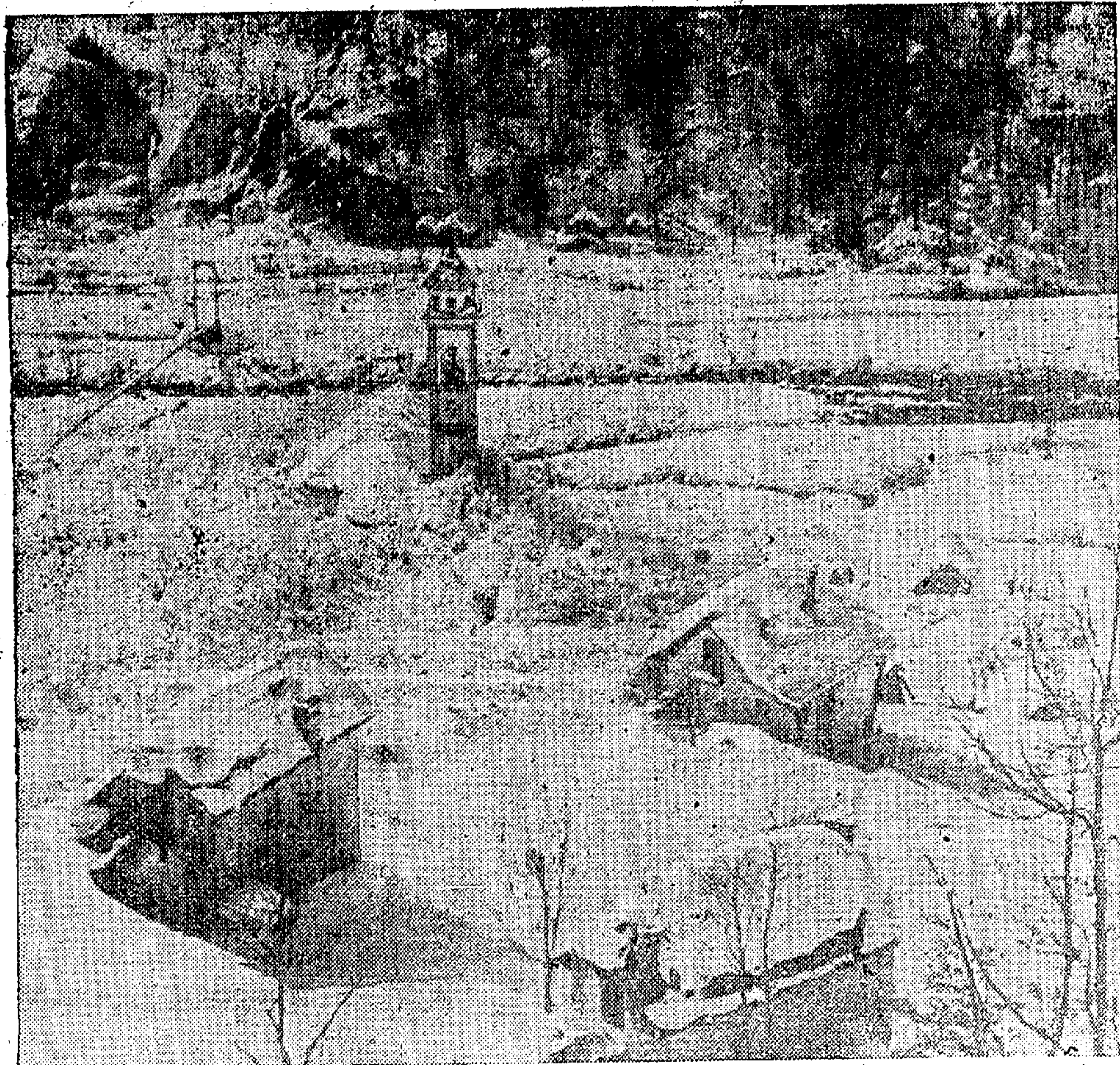
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TO-MORROW
"3 SECRETS"

AFTER THE AVALANCHE



This tranquil scene is all that remains of the village of Frasco, Switzerland, after an avalanche. The great snow slide carried as far as the village chapel, covering all but the belfry. Four of the villagers were killed.

"Arabism" Behind Morocco Trouble

Paris, Mar. 14.

A French Foreign Office spokesman today declared that exponents of "Arabism" were trying to impose the Oriental despotism of a minority on Morocco.

"We respect the Moslem religion," he said, "but there is a fundamental difference between Islamism and Arabism. It is as absurd for Azzam Pasha (Secretary-General of the Arab League) to claim that all Moslems are Arabs as it would be to pretend that all Christians are French."

"Arabism may be summed up as racism, despotism and imperialism, a policy of domination incompatible with the French character."

The spokesman said that the situation in Morocco was quiet. Press censorship (hitherto permanent in Morocco) was being abolished, he said. Censorship of outgoing Press messages ceased on Mar. 1, and the censorship of the Moroccan Press would be abolished on Apr. 1.

The French policy, which they hoped to see realised, tended towards giving Morocco full internal sovereignty with a deliberative assembly, general councils, and municipal assemblies in towns and villages.

These political reforms were most urgent as there was much time to be made up.

The spokesman said that the Istiqlal Movement had influenced the Sultan to use obstructive methods. (The Sultan recently removed the Istiqlal members from key positions in a reorganisation of his Government. He also ended his refusal to sign "Dahirs" which had been holding up the reforms desired by the French).—Reuter.

INDIA'S CONCERN

Paris, Mar. 14.

Sardar Hardit Singh Malik, the Indian Ambassador, today called on the French Foreign Ministry and conveyed, in an informal and friendly manner, the concern of India over the situation in Morocco, the Embassy announced tonight.

The Ambassador said that it was India's earnest hope that, in the interests of world peace, the French Government would see their way to reaching a friendly settlement in Morocco.—Reuter.

U.S. Casualties In Korea

Washington, Mar. 14.

The Defence Department said today that American casualties in Korea reported through last Friday, midnight, now total 54,649—an increase of 2,201 over a week ago.

The Defence Department announcement covered the total of

Danish King To Visit London

Copenhagen, Mar. 14.

King Frederik and Queen Ingrid are to pay an official visit to London from May 8 to 11, it was announced here today.

The Danish Royal couple will be the guests of King George and Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace.—Reuter.

Papal Nuncio To Germany Nominated

Vatican City, Mar. 14.

An authoritative Vatican source today confirmed the nomination of a Papal Nuncio to the West German Government at Bonn.

The nomination, according to the Vatican's full diplomatic recognition of the Bonn Government, was not expected to be announced officially until the new Nuncio presents his credentials.

The Vatican source said that the new Nuncio is Ludwig Josef Muench, Titular Archbishop of Fargo, who since the war has headed the Papal Nunciature in Western Germany, but without the Nuncio's title.

It was understood that Monsignor Muench is considered by the Vatican to be Nuncio, at least in theory, to the whole of Germany, both East and West, since the Papacy has not juridically recognised the political division of the country.

But it was thought highly unlikely here that the Vatican would make any effort to secure Muench's accreditation to the East German authorities.—Reuter.

casualties whose next of kin have been notified through last Friday, and not the number of casualties which occurred up to that time.

The list includes 8,101 killed in action, 36,108 wounded in action and 10,440 missing in action.—United Press.

BRITAIN MAKING REPRESENTATION TO PERSIA

London, Mar. 14.

The British Ambassador at Teheran, Sir Francis Shepherd, has been instructed to present a note to the Persian Government over the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company's interests in Persia.

Mr Kenneth Younger, Minister of State, announcing this in the House of Commons today, said "The British Government cannot be indifferent to the affairs of this major British interest."

He had been asked if he would comment on the "threat to British oil rights in Persia."

He replied that it was the right and duty of the British Government to take all possible measures to protect the legitimate interest of a British commercial undertaking overseas.

Mr Younger said that no representation had been received from the Persian Government about the nationalisation of the company's installations in Persia.

He understood that the company were willing to discuss an agreement on what could perhaps be best described as the basis of an equal sharing of profits in Persia and had so informed the Persian Government before the recent unfortunate developments in Teheran.

The company's present agreement with the Persian Government was valid until 1933. The British Government was advised that under the terms of the agreement the company's operations cannot legally be ended by a unilateral act of the Persian Government.—Reuter.

NEW PREMIER

Teheran, Mar. 14.

The Shah, Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, today issued a decree appointing Hussain Ala, Persia's new Prime Minister, in succession to General Ali Razmara who was assassinated last week.

Ala, a 68-year-old former Ambassador to the United States had already received the approval of the Senate and the Majlis (Parliament).

He was forming his Cabinet today.

The police today banned all meetings and demonstrations in the streets of the capital. Special permits will in future be required even for indoor political meetings.

This first act of the new Premier was intended to prevent disturbances and anti-foreign riots from both the Communists and the right wing Islamic extremists.—Reuter.

NOT INDIFFERENT

London, Mar. 14.

Lord Vansittart inquired in the House of Lords today whether all necessary measures would be taken to protect the legitimate British interests in Persia. Lord Henderson, replying on behalf of the Government, said no representation had yet been received from the Iranian Government with regard to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company but he added that Britain was paying close attention to the recommendations of the Oil Commission. The Government understood the Iranian Parliamentary Commission had asked for a two-month extension to study application of the principle of nationalising the industry.

"On the Company's side, I understand they for their part are willing to discuss agreement on what can perhaps best be described as the basis of equal sharing of profits in Persia and had so informed the Persian Government before the recent unfortunate developments in Teheran," said Lord Henderson. "The Company's present agreement with the Persian Government is valid until 1933 and His Majesty's Government are advised that under the terms of that agreement the company's operations cannot legally be terminated by the unilateral action of the Persian Government."

"His Majesty's Government cannot be indifferent to affairs of this major British interest. His Majesty's Ambassador at Teheran has accordingly been instructed to present forthwith to the Persian Government a note on the subject."

Lord Vansittart asked whether the Government's attention had been drawn to utterances of Seyid Kashani, leader of a fanatical Moslem sect, one of whose members assassinated General Razmara last week.

Lord Vansittart said Kashani not only had approved the assassination but had threatened other use of force which he did not possess.

Lord Henderson replied: "The Government do not feel inclined to attach importance to the fulmination of a person who is known to be irresponsible, a self-confessed helper of German agents in the last war and who was arrested and later expelled from Persia for his alleged action in the attempted assassination of his sovereign."—United Press.

Israeli Claim In Perspective

London, Mar. 14.

The Liberal "Manchester Guardian" said today that the claim for reparations from Germany presented by the Israeli Government to the four occupying powers should be considered with sympathy.

The paper said: "Certainly, there should be sympathy with Israel's request. But who would pay the reparations? Probably not the Germans but the taxpayers of all Western Europe and the United States. The occupying powers once had grandiose plans for securing reparations from Germany, but only in the Russian zone have these plans been put into practice, and even there, they have been reduced. The Western powers did not take long to realise that if they removed Germany's productive equipment, they would be left with a starving Germany to look after."

The paper continued: "Had Israel's claim come earlier, she could have been given some of the capital equipment taken from Germany. But even then, her full demand could not nearly have been met, since \$1,500,000,000 is more than the value of the reparations distributed to every country other than Russia until the end of 1948."—United Press.

Aerial Survey Of Pacific

Melbourne, Mar. 14.

Blazing a cross-Pacific trail, the Catalina flying boat, Frigate Bird II, arrived at Noumea, on the French island of New Caledonia—its first hop—at 4:07 a.m. GMT today, the Civil Aviation Department here learned.

It took off at dawn from Grafton, New South Wales, and hopes to reach Valparaiso, Chile in three weeks. The plane is looking for practicable island air bases.—Reuter.

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CONSPIRACY IN CZECH ARMY

Linked By Prague With Alleged Plotting By Clementis

EUROPE SHAKEN BY QUAKE

London, Mar. 14.

Earth tremors shook five countries of Europe today, bringing down chimneys and toppling war-damaged houses.

Damage and injured spread across Germany, Belgium, France and Holland.

Gales killed at least six people, halted liners and drove little ships to shelter.

Villagers in the Eifel Mountains of Germany panicked when they saw the school walls crash.

The West German capital, Bonn, reported the most severe tremors, but seismographic observations left the epicentre of the quake a mystery.

Swedish recordings registered tremors at a distance of less than 1,200 miles. Lille Observatory located the epicentre approximately 72 miles south-east of this French town; a Paris suburban observatory registered a slight tremor. Swiss scientists at Neuchatel recorded a shock 120 miles away.

Buildings rocked, furniture danced, ceilings fell and mirrors crashed in such separated districts as Bonn, Brussels and East Holland.—Reuter.

Browder Cleared

Washington, Mar. 14.

Federal Judge Dickinson Letts today cleared Earl Browder, former boss of the American Communist Party, of contempt of Congress charges.

Mr Browder was accused of contempt of the Senate Foreign Relations sub-committee which investigated Senator Joseph McCarthy's charges of Communist infiltration of the State Department, when Mr Browder refused to answer 16 questions.

Judge Letts noted that Mr Browder answered freely 140-150 questions with no attempt to evade the consequences of the information imparted.

He said that on the occasions Mr Browder declined to answer, he specifically stated his objections and gave explanations. He said: "The Court could not permit a verdict of guilty in this case."—United Press.

Lady Gascoigne's Gesture

Tokyo, Mar. 14.

Lady Gascoigne, wife of the former head of the British Liaison Mission to Japan, gave her British-made car for a raffle held yesterday to raise funds for an animal hospital in Tokyo.

She is President of the Japan Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.—Reuter.

Officers In High Positions Said To Be Implicated

Prague, Mar. 14.

The Defence Minister, General Alexej Cepicka, today ordered the complete "extermination" of an anti-Soviet conspiracy which, he said, had been only partly uncovered in the Czechoslovak Army.

Details given by the Minister today said that the conspiracy aimed at preventing the reorganisation of the Army on the Soviet pattern and at "eventually making it an instrument to serve the West."

He linked it with the alleged plots of Dr Vladimir Clementis, former Foreign Minister, now under arrest.

The conspiracy extended from the Ministry of National Defence in Prague to high officers in other parts of the country, the Minister's statement said.

General Bedrich Reicin, Deputy Minister of National Defence, and Lieutenant-Colonel Karel Kopold, of the Appointments Department of the Ministry, were named officially on Sunday as the principal leaders of the alleged conspiracy and were understood to be under arrest.

General Cepicka's statement today said that these two officers "gained influence over officers in high positions."

DEFINITION OF A COMMUNIST

Declaring that the Army conspiracy was closely connected with a plot led by Dr Clementis, General Cepicka said that it was necessary to clear up ideas about socialist patriotism and internationalism.

"A Communist," he said, "is a patriot who loves the working people and his homeland. He is a patriot who simultaneously and with enthusiasm adheres to the idea of brotherhood among working people the world over, a man who loves the Soviet Union and the peoples of the Allied countries engaged in building socialism."—Reuter.

Japan Kicks Out Koreans

Tokyo, Mar. 14.

Japan deported about 2,300 Koreans during 1951, the Foreign Office Immigration Agency reported today.

In the first deportation of this year 408 Koreans were sent to Pusan on Mar. 2.

Most of the deportations were for illegal entry into Japan while a few were for violations of the Aliens Registration Ordinance.

Since the end of the war Japan has deported about 8,000 Koreans.—Reuter.

GROWING TENSION IN TEHERAN

Teheran, Mar. 14.

The police chief, General Mohamed Daftari, today imposed a strict ban on mobile demonstrations to "safeguard public order" in Iran.

Informed sources said the police action followed discovery of a plot by the outlawed Communist Tudeh Party to march throughout the country on Friday, openly shouting Communist slogans and plastering signs in prominent places.

The Tudeh Party was banned after an abortive attempt to assassinate the Shah on February 4, 1949.

The evening newspaper Bakhtar Emrouz said nine Tudeh members were arrested by the police yesterday in connection with a plot against security and further arrests were expected soon.

Reliable sources said the police announcement also followed the discovery of a plot by the fanatical Fida'ism group to march in strength on Teheran and attempt to release their comrade, Khalil Tehmassebi, assassin of the late Premier, General Ali Razmara. They said the fanatics planned to surround police headquarters and the Central Prison where Khalil is held.

Although the order bans marching demonstrations, stationary rallies may be held with police permission.

The Tudeh Communist group called the "National Society for Combating the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company" announced that they would stage a demonstration on Friday. Nationalisation of the huge company, in which the British Government is the majority stockholder, has been demanded by Leftist groups.—United Press.



ROADSIDE FIRST AID—An injured Korean refugee girl is having her wounds inspected by a UN soldier on the Western Front. Her sister had been pulling her along the road for several days on the makeshift couch that would seem to require the strength of a horse to drag along the crowded roads.

Old Roman City Found In Desert

Cairo, Mar. 14.

Winds of the Western desert have swept aside sand from a walled city which flourished early in the Christian era. Archaeologists believe the city, near the Kharga Oasis, dates back to the time of Marcus Aurelius at the close of the second century after Christ.

A strong wall two yards thick and four yards high surrounds the city. The Roman city includes a temple of yellow sandstone bearing hieroglyphic inscriptions as well as a colonnaded palace of brick.—United Press.

AMERICA OF SAME MIND

Washington, Mar. 14.

The State Department spokesman, Mr Michael McDermott, said today that the United States would like to see Yugoslavia and Italy settle the question of Trieste by direct negotiation between themselves.

The American Government still stood by the tripartite de-

New Chapter In Amity

London, Mar. 14.

The Italian Foreign Minister, Count Carlo Sforza, said today that "a new chapter in Anglo-Italian relations" was being written in the discussions here with British officials.

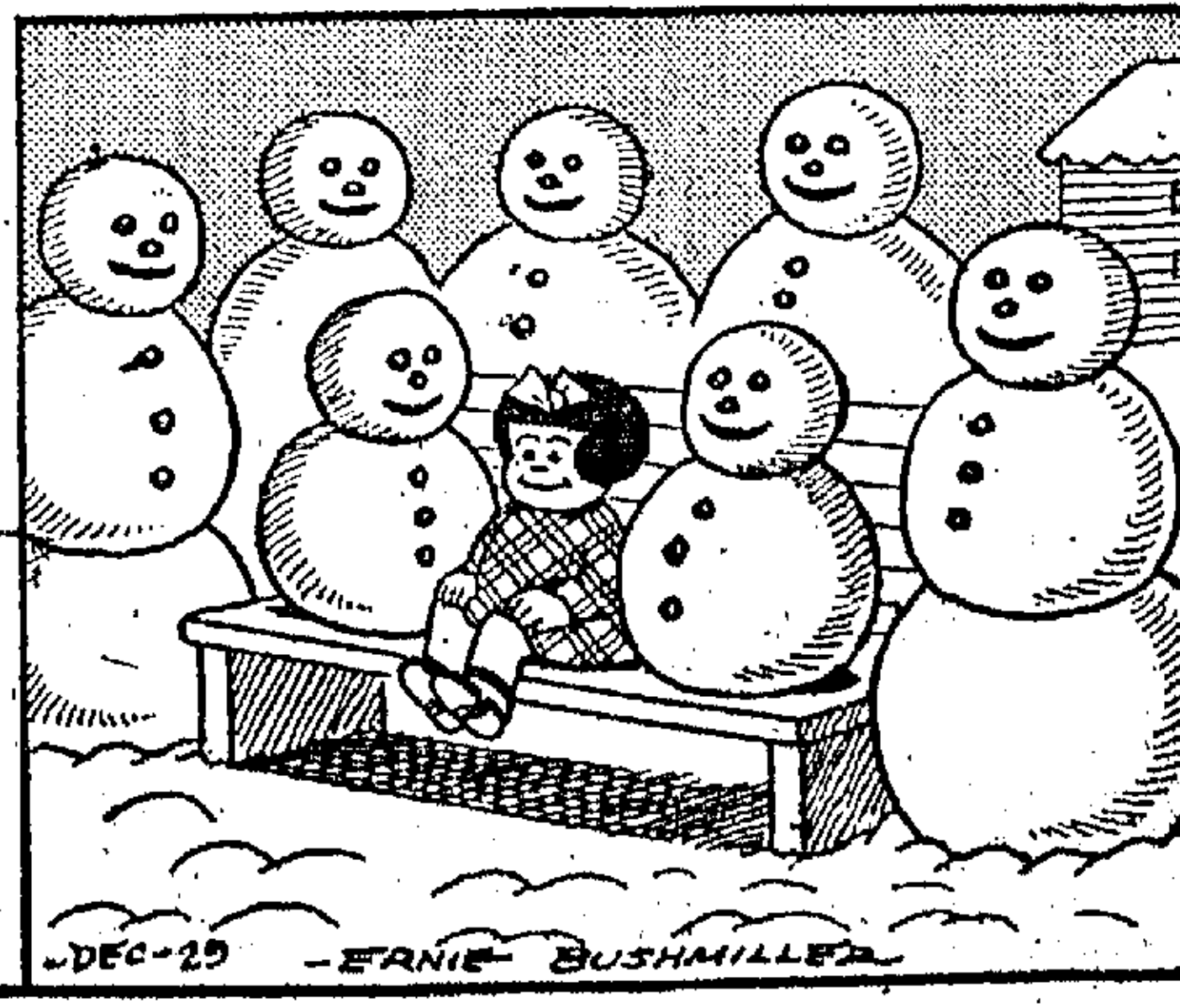
Count Sforza's talks with the Foreign Secretary, Mr Herbert Morrison, today were of a more detailed nature, on such problems as employment of Italians in British coal mines, the general problem of emigration, industrial and economic co-operation and political co-operation in the Council of Europe, which Count Sforza would like to see go ahead much more rapidly.—United Press.

Declaration of March 20, 1948, in which the United States, United Kingdom and France expressed the view that the territory should be returned to Italy.

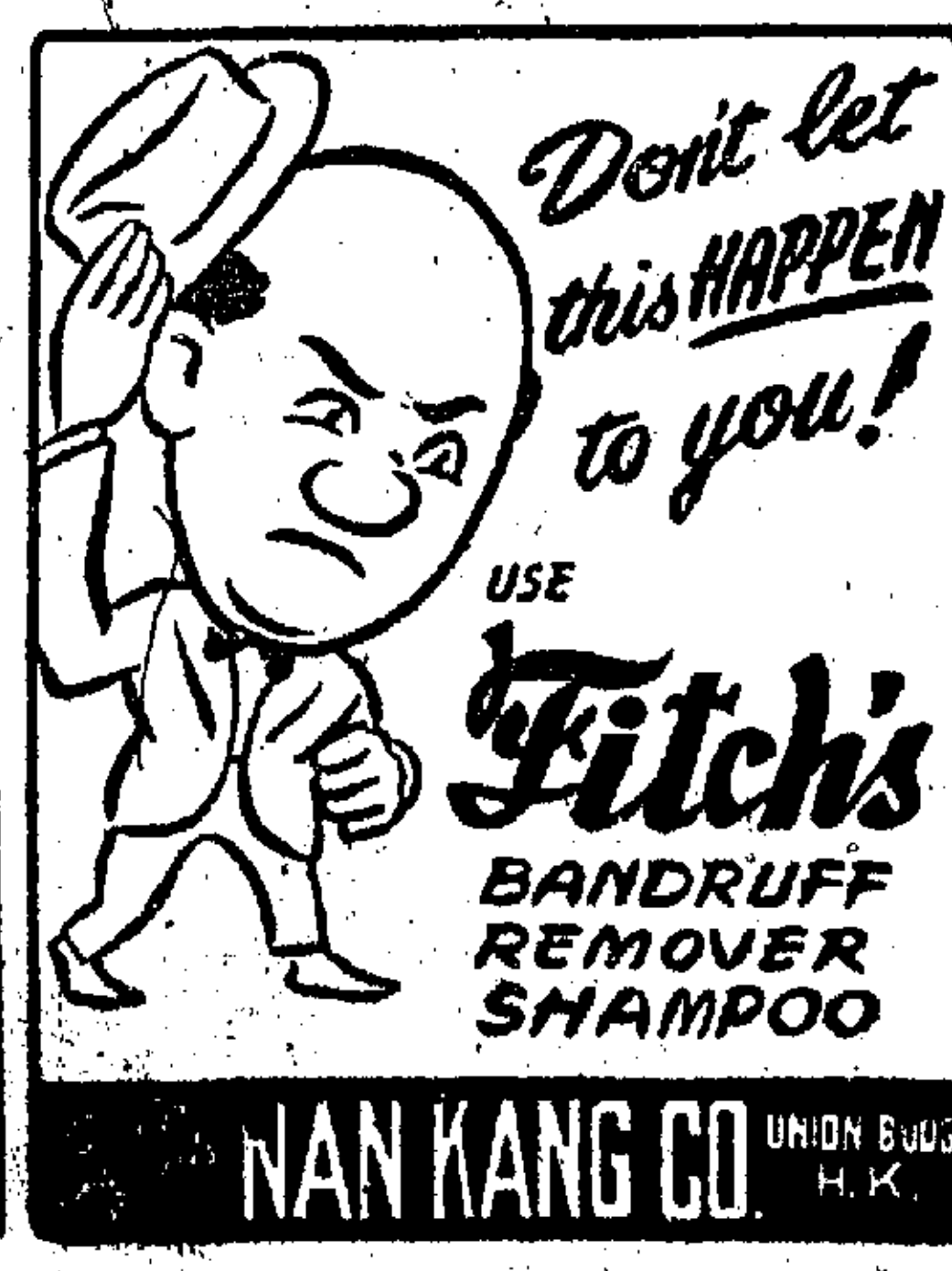
The question of Trieste arose at a press briefing when Mr McDermott was asked to comment on reports that the British Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, had reassured the Italian Premier that Britain still backed the tripartite contention.—United Press.

NANCY

Cold Comfort



By Ernie Bushmiller



NOTHING WILL SURPRISE ME ABOUT CRICKET AFTER READING WEBBER'S BOOK

Says PETER WILSON

A twelve-year-old schoolboy was so thrilled by England winning the Ashes back from Australia in 1926 that he started to compile a book on records. And now, in the week that England won the first Test against Australia for nearly 13 years, the book was finally published.

The author, Roy Webber, now a 36-year-old accountant, has worked for almost a quarter of a century to produce "Cricket Records." His labours have resulted in one of the most astonishing books about sport that I've ever seen.

For instance

Talk about brighter cricket isn't new because, way back in 1800 a match was played between two elevens on horseback—and don't think that "bodyline bowling" is a twentieth century invention.

A Brighton player with the delightful name of Little Dench used a sack of straw tied to his chest (what the RAF would call a somewhat primitive "Mac West") to protect himself from the fast bowling of George Brown. And Dench was fielding LONG STOP at the time!

The school of thought which holds that there wouldn't be so much trouble with Russia if only they played cricket will enjoy the following passage:—

"On July 28, 1875, a match was played at St. Petersburg (now Leningrad) between teams representing the crew of the Royal Yacht Osborne and the British residents of the town."

"The match apparently caused consternation with the Russian authorities, as the Chief of Police went down to the ground to 'demand an explanation for the presence of this force of warriors in the midst of the Russian Woolwich."

'CURIOSITIES'

We've all heard of "sticky" wickets—heard too much on certain recent regrettable occasions—but did you know of a match that was played on water? Actually there were several of them, because in the very cold

*Playfair, 25s.

Hongkong May See The FA Amateur Cup

London, Mar. 14.

Soccer fans in Hongkong and Manila may have a chance of seeing the English Football Association Amateur Cup in May. Hendon, the London Athenian League Club, who are to make a three weeks' tour of Hongkong and Manila during that month, plan to seek permission to take this prized trophy with them should they win it. They have already battled their way into the semi-final round in which they clash on Saturday next with Pegasus, the club of Oxford and Cambridge University players.

KEYED UP

An official of the club told Reuter today that the players were keyed up for the trip. "It is the one thing to which they are looking forward," he said.

Seventeen players, two officials and a trainer will make the journey. Two first team players have had to drop out. They are inside-right Arthur Pheby, a professional cricketer in the Kent County team, and centre-half Dexter Adams, whose surveyor examinations clash with the tour.

The party leave London by air on May 6 and play their first match in Hongkong on May 12. Owing to their great Cup run, Hendon's fixture list for the remainder of the English season is more congested than that of any other amateur club.

They face a particularly strenuous Easter programme. To help clear arrears, two matches will be played on Good Friday—one on the Saturday and two more on Easter Monday.—Reuter.

winters of the last century a number of matches were played on the ice—the earliest one of which is fully recorded and took place at Cambridge in the February of 1870.

One entry in the "curiosities" section of the book brings back happy memories. In 1836, Wenman and Mills, two professional cricketers, defeated an Isle of Oxney XI, at Wittersham, in Kent.

It was agreed that the match would be repeated in 100 years' time, and, consequently, on September 5, 1936, W. H. Ashdown (Kent) and A. F. Wensley (Sussex) played Oxney.

Oxney batted first, with the two professionals bowling and keeping wicket alternately, and got 153. Then Ashdown and Wensley got 186 before Wensley was out at 96.

But the real "treat" was the lunch we had—which was also a replica of the one served in 1836—with roast cygnet as the main course, a distinctly better dish than whale, snook, or reindeer!

UNLUCKY BIRD

Talk of birds reminds me that, although "ducks" are all too common, I had forgotten about the unfortunate sparrow, at Lord's in 1936. This was struck by a ball from M. Jahangir Khan, who was bowling to T. N. Pearce in the Cambridge v MCC match.

The batsman played the ball and the dead bird, which had been in flight, fell against the wicket without removing the bails.

The bird was preserved and is now on view in the Long Room at Lord's—where I must say I've seen one or two other old birds in a remarkable state of preservation.

Internationals

Lead Danes 6-4

Glasgow, Mar. 14.

The international side finished their second day's play by leading by six events to four, as the result of victories in further mixed doubles and men's doubles badminton matches against Danish players who participated in the recent All-England badminton championships.

E. L. Choong and Mrs. A. M. Horner beat John Skaarup and Madame Tonny Ahm 15-8, 10-15, 15-6, and F. W. Peard and J. Fitz-Gibbon beat Arve Lossman and Ib Olesen 15-12, 15-3.

Peard and Fitz-Gibbon co-operated skilfully to score an unexpected but merited win over Lossman and Olesen.

Five matches tomorrow will conclude the series.—Reuter.

Rugger Results

London, Mar. 14.

The following were the results of RUGBY UNION games played today:

Kent 8, The Army 3 (played at Blackheath).

Civil Service 6, Royal Air Force 6 (played at Chiswick).

Queen's University (Belfast) 17, Oxford University 0.

Royal Navy College (Devonport) 0, Plymouth Albion 0.—Reuter.

Statistics can be as dry as a teetotalers' convention, but with this astonishing book you can get the reputation of being a pretty accurate forecaster.

For instance, Len Hutton, batting hero of the present Australian tour, has now made 96 hundreds. Page 210 of "Cricket Records" shows that he averages a hundred in every sixth innings—only eight players have a higher "frequency"—so at this rate he needs just over 600 more innings to have a chance of beating Jack Hobbs' 197 hundreds.

Hutton is now 34, and he would be expected to average about 50 innings a season—exclusive of overseas tours. If he maintains his form he might well do it in some nine years.

Hobbs was over 40 when he completed his 100th hundred, and he still scored 97 more. So it looks as though Len might be the first batsman to get 200 hundreds—a score which is, I hope, achieved by this, most entertaining of all record books.

—(London Express Service)

Oxford's Crew's Third Full Course Trial

London, Mar. 14.

Wretched weather conditions prohibited any true guidance to form when Oxford University took 25 minutes and 27 seconds to cover the four and a quarter miles Putney to Mortlake boat-race course today in their third full-course trial.

The time was more than five minutes longer than their previous trial on the flood-tide and it was obvious from the start that their stroke, Christopher Davidge, had decided not to attempt to race in such strong headwinds and very rough water.

Davidge took his crew away at eight, 16, 32 for the first minute. The rate of stroking dropped to 31 for the second minute and 29 for the third.

The mile post was reached in 4 mins. 52 secs. and the crew faced the roaring headwind and rough water to reach Hammersmith Bridge in 8 mins. 46 secs.

Davidge dropped the rate of stroking as low as 26, owing to the considerable splashing and the crew went in close to the Surrey shore to avoid the rough water, so losing the best of the stream.

Despite the efforts of the Thames and London University pacing crews, the rate of stroking never went above 30 to Barnes Bridge, which was passed in 20 mins. 50 secs.

Davidge did not go higher than 31 on the last stretch when the water was better.

Oxford started about three lengths below the University Stone, which would reduce the complete course time by about 12 secs.—Reuter.

HOW COULD THEY LOSE?



Freda Hearn, two, is carrying a megaphone that appears to be a few sizes too large for her in London, England. She looks a little apprehensive as she watches her heroes battle on the field of the Fulham Football Club, but with such charming inspiration rooting them home, how could her team have possibly lost the game?

John Macadam's Column

Give The 'Little Clubs' A Chance

Major talking point these days among those lesser breeds within the law—the Third Division boys—is the suggestion thrown around from here some weeks ago that the promotion and relegation system that has obtained in Soccer so long is due for close, authoritative scrutiny, if not for early revision.

There is a ring in Soccer today, as there is a ring in almost every department of the social scene that depends on finance for its motive force, and you only have to ask Gillingham and Colchester how hard it is to get inside that ring, far less stay inside once you are there.

The Cup performance of Bristol Rovers brought the argument to boiling point.

Why, it is asked, should a club that can so defy all the big transfer policies and by sheer football alone get to within a clear sight of a semi-final, be manacled to the Third (or fate-worse-than-death) Division? For that matter, why should a lot of the teams we have seen in this lowly sphere be kept there, not necessarily by finance nor by lack of skill or local interest, but merely by mathematics?

Only one North and South team can hope for elevation to Second Division each season, yet these eyes alone have seen half a dozen Third Division (South) sides that would give—as Bristol Rovers have demonstrated—any but the top half-dozen First Division clubs better than a run for their money.

From personal experience it is possible to match Nottingham Forest, Norwich City, Bristol Rovers, Plymouth Argyle, Exeter City and now, with slight alteration, Torquay against all but a handful of the top notchers.

ARTS AND CRAFTS

Not that they would necessarily match them in goal-getting, but they would match them in the arts and crafts of the game, which is all that personally interests us.

The day of the reproachful charge of "Third Division kick and rush" is over, and it is time this fact were recognised by the pundits.

What to put in the place of the present up-and-down system? Something based on a combination of an annual review of the playing quality of each team and the support it can attract and accommodate.

It may have seemed odd, that inclusion of lowly Torquay

among the top six footballing sides, but Alec Massie, the former Aston Villa and Scotland star, strongly backed by vice-chairman George Gillan, has reshuffled himself a team of youngsters (none over 23) who are playing fine football and running out of luck just in front of goal.

The directors are at the moment doing more than nearly praying for a change of luck. A large part in the revival is played by the former Partick Thistle and Scotland half back Brown, who did enough of the kind of thing Massie used to do with Villa against Ipswich to have well won the game in the first half.

Yet it was the Ipswich winger Jacky Brown practically a cripple who headed the only goal.

FRED EVERISS

Football people were stunned the other day at the news of the death of that knight of football Fred Everiss, who as long as almost anyone remembers was secretary of West Bromwich Albion.

Fred started with West Bromwich as a four-shillings-a-week office boy, came into the limelight when he got the secretary job at the age of 19 and held it without any challenge for 46 years.

He retired three years ago after 55 years with the club, when we all celebrated his accession to the Board with a tremendous banquet. He was an FA councillor and a mainspring of the secretaries-managers' association.

Fred was 68. In personal meetings with him in all parts of Europe over the past 20 years I have never heard him say an unkind thing.

—(London Express Service)

FOR THE BUSINESSMAN

Rollback In Tin
Price Denied
In Washington

Washington, Mar. 14.

Commodity trade rumours of an impending rollback in the price of tin were denied in official quarters today.

On the heels of the Government action to take control of tin in the interests of national defence, New York commodity traders predicted a price rollback to \$1.30 per pound at which the Reconstruction Finance Corporation had bought tin from the British Ministry of Supply from June, 1948 until June, 1949.

A check-up, however, disclosed that such action is extremely unlikely, since such a

drastic price cut has no insurance of tin supplies.

The R.F.C. meanwhile, has established the market for tin at \$1.34 per pound, the New York market price of last Friday.

In its order placing all domestic users of pig tin under allocation, effective on May 1, the National Production Authority on Monday designated the R.F.C. as sole importer of tin. The only exceptions are importers who on Monday had tin afloat en route to the United States or persons who prior to March 12 had entered into contracts to purchase or sell tin.

It is hoped that a solution of tin price problem will be reached at the meeting of world tin producers opening here tomorrow as part of the international materials conference. Representatives of the United Kingdom, Belgium, Netherlands and Bolivia are to sit at the Conference table and it is hoped that they will be joined by Indonesia. A Bolivian spokesman has already pointed out that any such price as \$1.03 per pound would not be adequate compensation for the extra high current costs of production.—United Press.

ACTION EXPLAINED

Washington, Mar. 14.

It was learned today that the Government's recent moves against foreign tin speculators was timed to put the U.S. in a strong bargaining position at the new international tin conferences.

A spokesman for the General Services Administration, Government's buying agency, said the nation wanted to be able to go into the meetings and show foreign representatives what the United States can do to tin prices, if it has to.

He revealed the United States strategy as representatives of the United States and four other nations were prepared to organise a tin committee under the International Materials Conference. The other four nations are the Netherlands, Belgium, Indonesia and the United Kingdom.

If the group agrees on the basic organisation and problems, it will try to establish a system of allocating the world's supply of tin and set a fair price for the metal. The United States, which produces virtually no tin but uses more than half of the world's supply, has been irked at zooming prices which have climbed from about 77 cents a pound before the Korean war to \$1.83 recently.—United Press.

LIFEBLOOD OF EUROPE
RUNS ACROSS DESERT

By Margaret Gilruth

RUSSIA must be regarded with covetous eyes the world's longest pipeline, completed just beyond her grasp by democratic enterprise.

Costing £90,000,000, it snakes its way over 753 miles, principally desert which only the hardy Bedouin formerly considered penetrable; it travels from Qaisumah in northern Saudi Arabia across the Kingdom of Jordan, the Republic of Syria, and the Lebanon to ancient Sidon, its terminal on the Mediterranean.

Tapline, as it is termed by the oilman, will fetch fifteen million tons of crude oil annually through a subsidiary gathering system starting three hundred miles away at Abqaiq, in the Saudi Arabian fields.

If there is a war the importance of Tapline will assume

the highest priority in the minds of those who control our destiny; then, more likely than not, its oil will be a military concern. But today much of the precious liquid it sends to its terminal is diverted to European refineries for the recovery of needy nations.

It was on December 2 last that officials gathered at Sidon for the opening of a valve which freed the first spurt of oil coming from the Tapline tubing. Four tankers were waiting off shore for loading; there were three of the super 28,000-ton class—the other was smaller and humbler, a Greek of 16,000 tons chartered to the Americans.

For laymen a vast structure such as a pipeline is not easy to visualise, mainly because "taplines" are generally in remote corners of the world, beyond the orbit of the most determined traveller.

But statistics help to give some ideas; here are facts drawn at random. Tapline, with its 30-31 inch diameter, takes 300 tons of steel a mile. Each mile holds 4,400 barrels of oil. When pipe is full it weighs, with its contents, 370 pounds a foot.

Each 31-foot section of pipe involves enough steel to make the bodies of two medium-size cars. There are 125,000 of those sections between Qaisumah, in northern Saudi Arabia, and the Sidon outlet—enough for the bodies of 250,000,000 medium-size cars.

Oil in it moves at about 66 miles a day; a drop travelling without interruption from the Saudi Arabian wells to Sidon (1,067 miles) takes about 16 days en route.

And the total weight of pipe required to carry it during its long journey is 265,000 tons.

through its costly enclosure; four pumping-stations had to be constructed at 175-180 mile intervals to do this job.

Each is nowadays a self-contained snug little town in the desert, with power units, houses, playgrounds for oilmen's children, cinemas to keep their wives entertained, medical facilities, shops, and electric light systems.

For the operation of those stations 40 water-producing wells were drilled, and are now believed by thousands of wandering tribesmen who bring their camels, sheep, goats and families to the district for water to be an Allah-sent gift.

For a fantastic Jules Verne-like project such as Tapline, money on the grand scale has been and being paid out on necessities. The off-loading of equipment at Ras-el-Misha'ab, on the Persian Gulf, required an artificial island in shallow water three miles from the shore; this was made of steel piling with a wooden deck.

Connection between the "island" and land was established through cars moving on overhanging cables strung from wooden towers. Roughly 1,000 tons were transported from "island" to shore each day.

Then a fine level highway was built over 1,100 miles of desert for pipe and equipment transportation. This cost £800 a mile—nothing substantial in an oil company's agenda.

Royalties to countries with pipelines running over their territory reach astronomical figures; the legendary land of Mesopotamia will earn more than £110,000,000 from oil royalties during the next six years, peace permitting.

Arab Governments in this happy position see hopes of foreign enterprise bringing their budgets swooping unexpectedly "out of the red" or debit side, for yet another new 30-inch pipeline is planned to be in partial operation in 1952. The first shipment of its pipe has arrived in Tripoli, north of Sidon.

Tapline is American, but for the new 1952 project substantial orders for equipment have been placed with British firms.

New York Sugar
Futures

New York, Mar. 14.

World sugar futures closed here today 1 to 7 points lower, with sales totalling 246 contracts.

Contract No. 6 closed here today 1 to 2 lower, with sales totalling 301 contracts.

Prices closed today as follows:—

Contract No. 4 (world)	5.47
May	5.47-5.47
July	5.46
September	5.46
Spot	5.50
Contract No. 6	5.43 bid
May	5.54 bid
July	5.61
September	5.61
Spot	5.60

—United Press.

TIN MARKET
STRENGTH

London, Mar. 14.

The tin market turned very strong today. Turnover was 85 tons, including 20 tons for spot.

Prices closed today at the end of the official morning session as follows:—

Spot tin, buyers	1,305
Spot tin, sellers	1,315
Business done at	1,305-1,280
Three-months tin, buyers	1,115
Three-months tin, sellers	1,125
Business done at	1,120-1,100
Settlement	1,305

—United Press.

London Rubber
Futures

London, Mar. 14.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—

Number 1 rubber, in cents, per lb.	62-1/2-63-1/2
April	62-1/2-63
April/June	61-1/2-62
July/September	55-56
October/December	51-1/2-52

—United Press.

Copra Price Drops

New York, Mar. 14.

No sales were reported in copra and coconut oil. Prices of copra dropped to \$275, while coconut oil was offered at 21-1/2 cents a pound.—United Press.

REPORT ON
MANCHURIA
TRADING

San Francisco, Mar. 14.

The total volume of State trade in Manchuria last year rose to 226 percent that of 1949, according to Peking Radio, tonight.

A report issued by the chief of the North-East Trade Department showed that both daily necessities and the means of production supplied by State trading concerns to cities and rural areas had greatly increased last year, the broadcast added.

It said that State trading had also fulfilled its plans regarding the handing over of trading profits to the Government for investment in national economic construction.

Private industries last year also received more orders from State shops, the broadcast stated.—Reuter.

Grain Prices
In Chicago

Chicago, Mar. 14.

Prices of grain futures closed here today as follows:—

Wheat—price per bushel.

Spot	2.44
March	2.41-3/4
May	2.45-3/4-3/4
July	2.39-3/4-3/4
September	2.40-3/4-3/4
December	2.44-3/4-3/4

Corn	
Spot	1.79-1/2
March	1.75-1/4
May	1.78-1/4-1/4
July	1.79-3/4-1/2
September	1.76-1/2-3/4
December	1.66

Rye	
May	1.86-3/4-1.87
July	1.85-1/4-1/2
Oats	
March	97 1/2 asked
May	95-1/4-95
New York Flour—per 200 lb. sack	\$13.20.—United Press.

Rubber Futures
In Singapore

Singapore, Mar. 14.

Prices of rubber futures closed here today as follows:—

Number 1 rubber, per lb.	March 210 1/2-211 1/2
April	206-207
May	202-203
Number 2 rubber, March	200-201
Number 3 rubber, March	186-187
Number 4 rubber, March	176-177
Spot rubber, unbled	211 1/2-212 1/2
Black crepe	147-149
No. 1 pale crepe	220-225

—United Press.

Naturally, oil does not by some magic run obediently

STANDARD BRIDGE
By M. Harrison-GrayDealer: North
Love all.

♠ A Q 9
♥ K J 8
♦ A 9 7 3
♣ A 8 5

W. ♠ 8 5 2
♥ 7 6
♦ K Q 10 8 5
♣ J 9 3

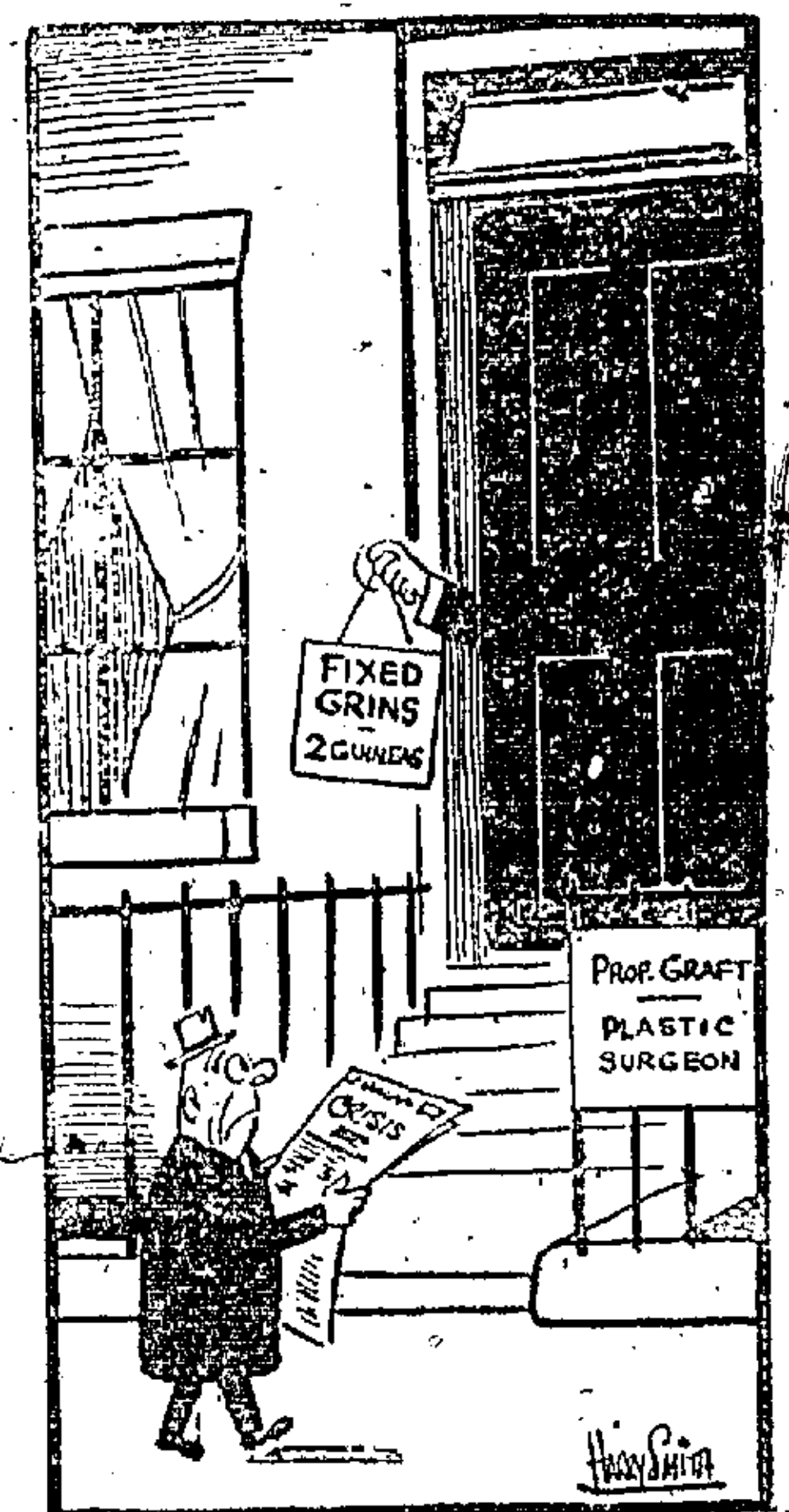
E. ♠ 7 4
♥ A 9 3 2
♦ J 6 2
♣ Q 10 6 4

S. ♠ K J 10 6 3
♥ Q 10 5 4
♦ 4
♣ K 7 2

North opened One No-Trump and South forced with Three Spades. With a maximum 18-count good controls and excellent Spade support, North justifiably raised to Five Spades, an invitation that South should have declined; but he went on to Six Spades and was faced with two apparent losers.

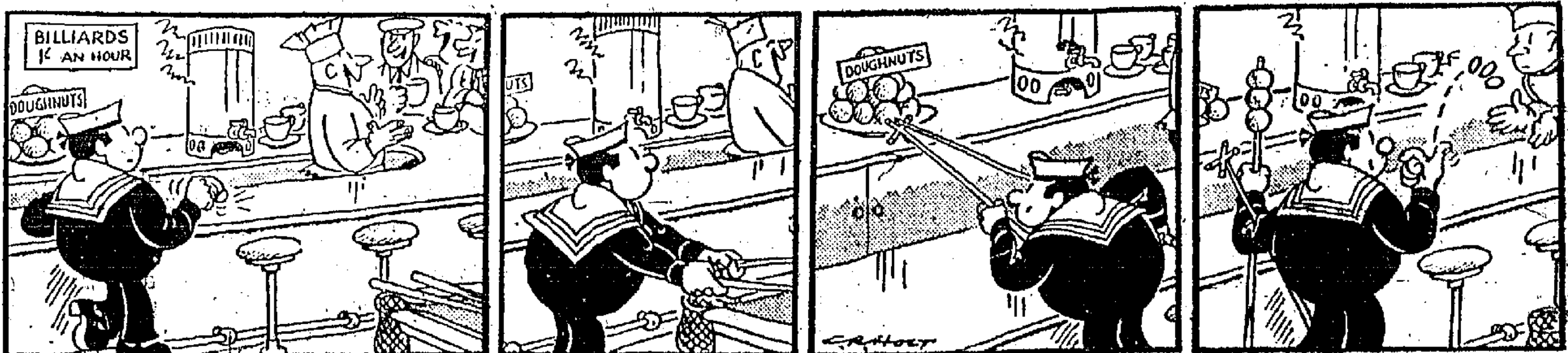
West led ♠ K and the contract was made by reversing the dummy. ♠ 3 was ruffed at trick 2, and ♠ 4 led to ♠ K and East's ♠ A. South trumped the Diamond return, entered dummy with ♠ A and ruffed a third Diamond. Trumps were now drawn in dummy, and on the third round South got rid of his losing Club, making the rest of the tricks. East could have beaten the slam by holding up ♠ A for one round.

London Express Service.



"I'd better have it now—before the price goes up!"

ABLE SEAMAN



By Holt

MYSTERY OF VANISHED ARMIES

Chinese Communists Retreating Faster Than U.N. Can Catch Up

Baffling Reports As Seoul Falls For Fifth Time

Eighth Army HQ., Mar. 14.

United Nations' military commanders are trying to find a political explanation for the mystery of the vanished Chinese.

Allied patrols probed to within 15 air miles of the 38th parallel today without finding the Reds in force. For the third straight day the Communists along a 140-mile Korean front were backpedalling faster than the half dozen armoured task forces could catch up with them.

DR DREES GOES BACK TO HELM

The Hague, Mar. 14.

It was officially announced here today that Dr Willem Drees, the Socialist Prime Minister, whose Cabinet resigned on January 24 on the Dutch-Indonesian dispute over New Guinea, has formed a new Government, thus ending Holland's two-months' old Government crisis.

Dr Dirk Stikker, of the "Freedom and Democracy" Party, remains as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

The new Cabinet, which will be sworn in by Queen Juliana tomorrow consists of six Catholics, five Socialists, two members of the Christian-Historical Party, one representative of the "Freedom and Democracy" Party, and three non-party members.

Mr J. Teulings (Catholic) will be Vice-Premier and Mr K. A. H. Peters will be Minister for Dutch Union and Realm Affairs.

Three political leaders had tried in vain to form a new Cabinet since Dr Drees' Government resigned on January 24. Parliamentary business, including defence and finance budgets, has stagnated in the meantime.

The end came in sight last night when four parties—the Catholics, Socialists, Christian-Historical and Freedom—announced that they had agreed to support a Coalition Government.—Reuter.

Rangoon Shopkeepers On Strike

Rangoon, Mar. 13.

Rangoon's shops were again closed today in protest against the Government's one-year-old sales tax.

The shops, which began their close-down yesterday, will remain closed indefinitely until an agreement is reached between the Government and the Shopkeepers Association.

The Chambers of Commerce here, including the British Chamber, have appealed to shopkeepers to open their shops and negotiate with the Government.

The Opposition in the Burmese Parliament failed today in moving a non-confidence vote against the Government. The Speaker ruled that at least 50 members should support the request to move the motion and the Opposition failed to muster them.—Reuter.

The overall picture was one of withdrawal on a larger scale than at any time since the Allies chased the defeated North Korean Army last autumn. Why? That is what United Nations commanders would like to know.

Here and there along the central front on Tuesday, the Yanks met minor rearguard actions and in one sector a small-scale counterattack. But that was all.

United Nations commanders wonder if the retreat has been prompted by the pressure of the current Allied offensive. Or they ask, have the Chinese taken General MacArthur's hint that a military stalemate is inevitable? Have they decided that the former border between North and South Korea is as good a place as any to have that stalemate?

Whatever the Chinese motives, Gen. Ridgway has these baffling reports to consider in reaching his conclusions: 1. Both Chinese and North Koreans have abandoned elaborately prepared defences on commanding ground all along the front and running to the depth of at least 10 miles in front of the United Nations lines.

2. Allied pilots have reported thousands of Red vehicles streaming south from North Korea. Whether they are for evacuation or reinforcement no one knows.

ORDERLY RETREAT

3. Despite the Allied pounding the Red withdrawal has been orderly. Only a moderate amount of equipment has been abandoned.

4. Only 50 to 100 prisoners a day have been captured during the last week, evidence that the Red morale is far from cracking.

5. Some prisoners report the Chinese are retreating to behind the 38th Parallel. Others say that a new Chinese Field Army is to reinforce the battered Fourth Field Army on the central front.

As for the war coming to an end, one military commander said, "Supposing the Chinese pulled back to the other side of the 38th and we did not cross over. All they would have to do to keep us in Korea is to sit and glare. Maybe that is what they want to do."—United Press.

FIFTH TIME

Tokyo, Mar. 14.

Seoul changed hands for the fifth time in nine months today when South Korean troops swept unopposed into the battered ghost city and proudly raised their Republic's flag over the Capitol building.

The last Communist rearguards were reported to have left the battered capital before dawn as the Eighth Army pushed forward unchecked along the whole 150-mile front.

The United States 1st Cavalry Division drove to within 13 miles of the 38th Parallel to a point northwest of the central front town of Hongchon. All Communist resistance below the 38th Parallel seemed to have melted away.

Chinese Communists and North Koreans were pulling back so quickly that United Nations patrols could not catch up with them. But there was no evidence of a rout.

The main Communist force was believed to have retreated compactly and in good order.

Military observers said that they had merely withdrawn to fresh defence lines.

The Eighth Army drove forward all day through a deserted No-Man's-Land of empty trenches, dug-outs and bunkers abandoned by the Communists.

SPEARHEADS UNCHECKED

Armoured spearheads in some sectors moved forward more than 10 miles against no opposition, screening the slowly-moving infantry behind them.

Seoul's fall is the political climax of General Matthew B. Ridgway's "limited objective" offensive, which is aimed at killing as many Communists as possible with his overwhelming superiority in air and artillery fire-power.

An Eighth Army spokesman tonight said that South Korean patrols had crossed the Han River into Seoul in small fishing boats. "The first patrol entered soon after midday and the last at 7.50 p.m.," he added.

"This patrol swept through the city and raised the flag. All patrols reported that they encountered no enemy."

The spokesman said that the South Koreans planned on staying in the shell-bomb shattered city.

Isolated pockets of enemy resistance which were met by United Nations troops in their broad 150-mile sweep north across the peninsula were believed to be due to poor communications of the Communists, whose precipitate but planned retreat paralleled the Eighth Army's own retreat 10 weeks ago, when they abandoned Seoul.—Reuter.

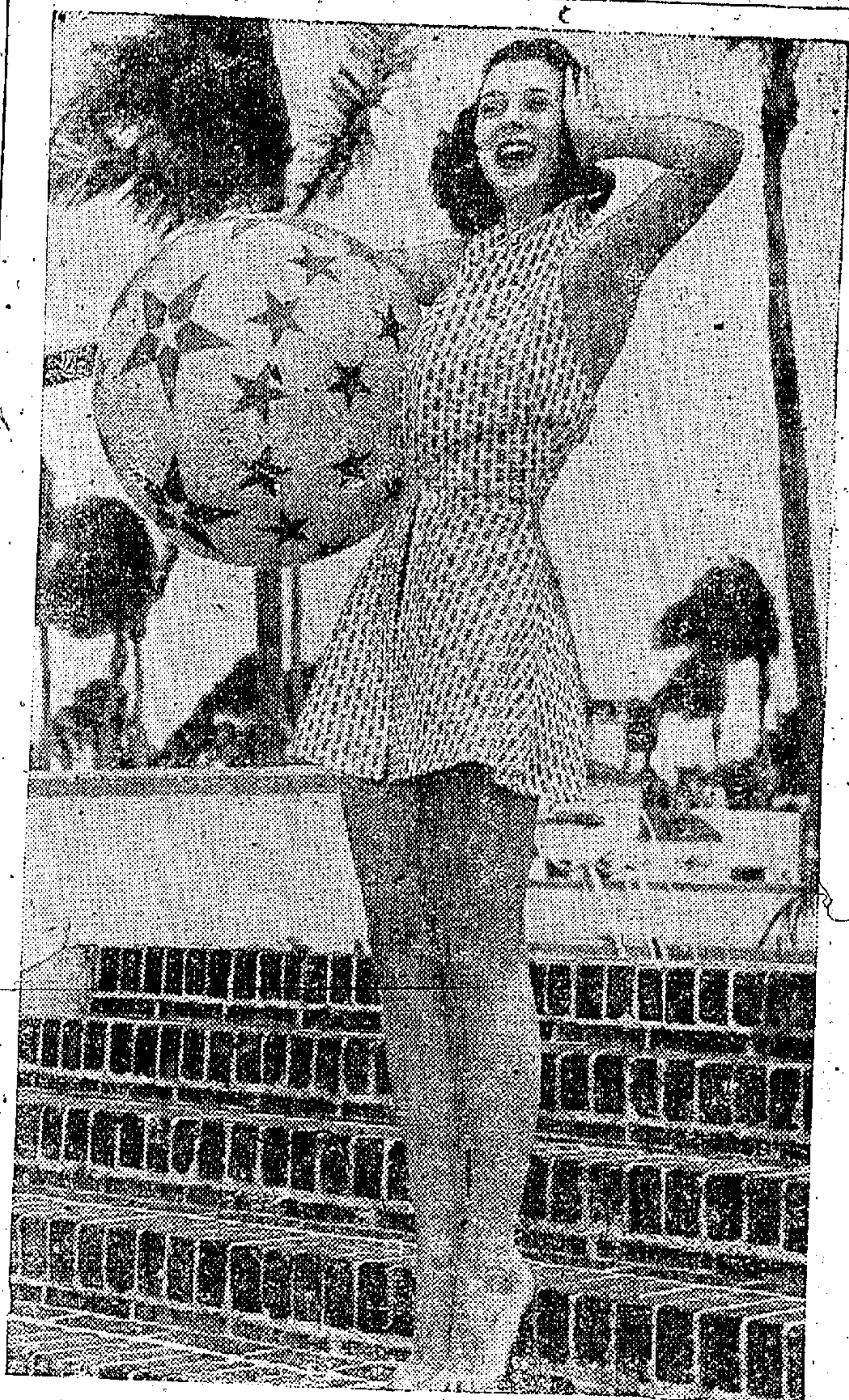
MENZIES SEEKING NEW ELECTIONS

Canberra, Mar. 14.

The Australian Prime Minister, Mr Robert Menzies, has sought an appointment with the Governor-General early tomorrow at which he will ask for the double dissolution of Parliament, it was learned authoritatively tonight.

This follows the action by the Labour-dominated Senate last night in referring the Banking Bill to a Select Committee for the second time, thus blocking the passage of the Bill.

The request by Mr Menzies for an early interview with the Governor-General, Mr W. J. McKell, confirms a decision of the Cabinet that the Prime Minister should seek a double dissolution.—Reuter.



Jeannine Holland, who has just won a Texas beauty contest, wears a checked basketweave cotton pique beachcoat, done in white and brown with a swimsuit under it. Jeannine is on a tour that will take her to three continents during the next six months.

Pakistan Conspiracy Probe

Karachi, Mar. 14.

A special staff of civilians has been selected to investigate the plot against the State which was revealed by the Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr Liaquat Ali Khan, last week, a Government spokesman said here tonight.

He refused to give the names of the staff but said that they were working closely with the military authorities.

The Government spokesman said that no more arrests had so far been made. But Air Commodore M. K. Janjua, senior Pakistan officer in the Pakistan Air Force, had been placed under house arrest.

In answer to a question whether the Communist Party was involved, as suggested by some local press reports, the spokesman would only say: "No action of any kind is yet contemplated against the Communist Party."

He denied reports that the conspiracy was a "vote-catching Government stunt connected with the West Punjab general elections," voting for which started the day after the plot had been revealed.

"It is impossible that any sane government could take such action against the Army Chief of Staff to win votes in an election," the spokesman said.—Reuter.

Admiral Carney In Rome

Rome, Mar. 14.

Admiral Robert B. Carney, Commander of the United States naval forces in the Eastern Atlantic and the Mediterranean, arrived here today.—Reuter.

FREIGHTER CRACKING UP

New York Mar. 14.

The Coast Guard reported today that two of its cutters were en route to the aid of the American-Israeli Line freighter, Ocean C., which reported its No. 5 hold completely flooded.

The freighter, which sailed from Norfolk late on Tuesday for Rotterdam with a cargo of 9,702 tons of coal, reported that she was 170 miles east-northeast of Cape Henry, Virginia, and has reversed her course to return to Virginia. Coast Guard planes are being held in readiness because the ship's master fears that the hull may be cracking.—United Press.

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